

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Concrete article, ~~characterised by~~ wherein the fact that the concrete article contains a concrete thickener comprising the following components:
 - [[d]]a) about 20 to about 40% by weight, preferably about 30% by weight, of at least one thickening agent;
 - [[e]]b) about 20 to about 40% by weight, preferably about 30% by weight, of at least one hydrophobing additive; and
 - [[f]]c) remainder water.
2. (Currently Amended) The concrete article as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised by~~ wherein the fact that the thickening agent is an organic or inorganic polymer.
3. (Currently Amended) The concrete article as claimed in Claim 2, ~~characterised by~~ wherein the fact that the thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyurethanes, alginates, polyoses, cellulose derivatives, polycarboxylic acids, polyethers, polyimines, polyamides, silicic acid derivatives, zeolites and/or combinations thereof, polyacrylates, polyurethanes, cellulose derivatives and silicic acid derivatives being preferred.
4. (Currently Amended) The concrete article as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1, ~~characterised by~~ wherein the fact that the concrete thickener is present in the concrete article in proportion of about 0.01 to 2.0% by weight, preferably about 0.04 to about 1.0% by weight.

5. (Currently Amended) The concrete article as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1, ~~characterised by~~ wherein the fact that the hydrophobing additive is selected from the group consisting of silanes, siloxanes, silicones, siliconates, fluorsilicates, hydrosilanes, fatty acids and their salts, waxes, acrylic resins, epoxy resins, polyurethane resins, sodium silicates (alkali silicates), silicic acid esters and/or combinations thereof.
6. (Currently Amended) The concrete article as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1, ~~characterised by~~ wherein the fact that the concrete thickener further comprises dyes, water-soluble polymer, polymer dispersions, surface-active substances of mixtures thereof.
7. (Currently Amended) The concrete article as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1, ~~characterised by~~ wherein the fact that the concrete article contains further concrete admixtures, such as concrete additives and/or concrete addition agents.
8. (Currently Amended) The concrete article as claimed in Claim 7, ~~characterised by~~ wherein the fact that the concrete additives are selected from the group consisting of concrete liquefiers, fluxes, air pore forming materials, sealing agents, retarders, accelerators, injection aids, ~~stabilisers~~ stabilizers, chromate reducers, recycling aids for washing water and/or combinations thereof, and the concrete addition agents are selected from the group consisting of trass, powdered stone, coal flue dust, silica dust, pigments and/or combinations thereof.
9. (Currently Amended) The concrete article as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1, ~~characterised by~~ wherein a water/cement ratio of about 0.3 to about 0.5 preferably about 0.4.
10. (Currently Amended) The concrete article as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1, produced in a vibration-compaction process.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a concrete article, especially as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claim[s]~~ 1, comprising the following steps:

[[iii]]i) mixing cement, grains of stone and make-up water, and optionally further concrete admixtures, such as concrete additives and/or concrete addition agents, in a mixer; and

[[iv]]ii) subsequently adding a concrete thickener to the mixture from step i), the concrete thickener comprising the following components:

[[d]]a) about 20 to about 40% by weight, preferably about 30% by weight, of at least one thickening agent;

[[e]]b) about 20 to about 40% by weight, preferably about 30% by weight, of at least one hydrophobing additive; and

[[f]]c) remainder water.

12. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 11, ~~characterised by wherein~~ the fact that the concrete thickener is added into the mixer via an evacuation pump and a spray nozzle.

13. (Original) A concrete thickener, especially one for thickening a concrete article, which comprises the following components:

a) about 20 to about 40% by weight, preferably about 30% by weight, of at least one thickening agent;

b) about 20 to about 40% by weight, preferably about 30% by weight, of at least one hydrophobing additive; and

c) remainder water

14. (Currently Amended) The concrete thickener as claimed in Claim 13, ~~characterised~~
~~by wherein~~ the fact that the thickening agent is an organic or inorganic polymer.
15. (Currently Amended) The concrete thickener as claimed in Claim 14, ~~characterised~~
~~by wherein~~ the fact that the thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyurethanes, alginates, polyoses, cellulose derivatives, polycarboxylic acids, polyethers, polyimines, polyamides, silicic acid derivatives, zeolites and/or combinations thereof.